

SENATE BILL REPORT

SB 5958

As of February 5, 2014

Title: An act relating to holding state agencies accountable for providing opportunities for certain students to participate in transition services.

Brief Description: Concerning accountability in providing opportunities for certain students to participate in transition services.

Sponsors: Senators McAuliffe, Hargrove, Rolfes, Mullet, Hasegawa, Chase, McCoy, Fraser, Kline, Fain, Hill, Keiser, King and Rivers.

Brief History:

Committee Activity: Early Learning & K-12 Education: 1/29/14.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EARLY LEARNING & K-12 EDUCATION

Staff: Katherine Taylor (786-7434)

Background: Currently, the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) has an interagency program agreement with the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Department Services for the Blind for implementation and assignment of responsibility for each agency as to its role in coordinating transitions for students who are eligible for special education services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

OSPI offers transition services as a component of an Individualized Education Program starting at age 16, which is consistent with federal law. OSPI must provide post-high school data to the U.S. Department of Education each year on post-high school outcomes for special education services students. OSPI also works with the Center for Change in Transition Services, housed at Seattle University, to track and report on post-school outcomes for special education services students.

The Education Research & Data Center (ERDC) is located in the Washington State Office of Financial Management. Along with ten agencies representing education and employment and the Legislative Evaluation and Accountability Program committee, ERDC analyzes early learning, K-12, higher education programs, and workforce issues across the P-20 system.

Summary of Bill: OSPI must establish interagency agreements with agencies that provide high school transition services for special education students. The purpose of the interagency

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agreements is to foster multiagency collaboration to provide transition services for special education students from the beginning of transition services through age 21 or high school graduation, whichever occurs first. Also, the agreements are intended to streamline services and programs, promote efficiencies, and establish a uniform focus on improved outcomes related to self sufficiency. However, transition services plan development in addition to what already exists in law is not required.

OSPI must collaborate with the Professional Educator Standards Board to build into existing and ongoing educator requirements that special education teachers and school psychologists receive training to be appropriately prepared to address the transition needs of special education students.

ERDC must monitor a number of outcomes for special education students after high school graduation, to the extent that data is available through data-sharing agreements established by ERDC. To the extent that the data elements are not available to ERDC, OSPI must collect the data. OSPI must attempt to collect the data through a single communication after a student's graduation. OSPI must prepare an annual report on the data and outcomes and submit the report to the Legislature.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Committee/Commission/Task Force Created: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

Staff Summary of Public Testimony: PRO: Interagency collaboration is very important. Last year the Legislature funded slots for transition services. This bill will help students find out about those slots and services.

OTHER: We want clarification in the first section dealing with the Department of Social and Health Services. There are laws that already provide these services. Some students choose not to engage in these services. We want to clarify the language in two sections. How would this training work with existing employees?

Persons Testifying: PRO: Marcie Osborne, Community Employment Alliance.

OTHER: Lucinda Young, WA Education Assn.